

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 9 being independent. Claim 15 has been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 9 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 1-14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections. For at least the reasons detailed below, all pending claims should be considered allowed.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figs. 8 and 9 stating that they should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." Applicants have amended Figs. 8 and 9 to include the reference label "Prior Art."

Applicants have also amended Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 in an effort to correct some minor informalities.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings in Item 2 of the Office Action stating that brief labels should be provided for, for example, signal 111. Applicants respectfully submit that the

reference label 111 is clearly indicated in the drawings as well as are the other reference labels that the Examiner indicates.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

Specification

Applicants have amended the first full paragraph on page 15 of the specification, in an effort to conform the specification to the amendments made to the drawings. This amendment does not add any new subject matter to the specification.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-15 because of minor informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in an effort to place them into proper form for U.S. patent practice. Furthermore, these amendments do not change the scope of the claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claim 15: under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as

the invention; and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Graves (US 4,667,324). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Because Applicants cancelled claim 15, the rejections against claim 15 are now rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

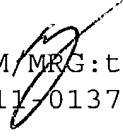
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Replacement Drawings (7)